WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for use by a circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the method comprising:

comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE;

if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, applying the configuration command thereto; and

if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, disregarding the configuration command.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command.
- 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool.
- 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file.
- 5. The method of claim 2 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file.
- 6. The method of claim 5 wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs.

- 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration command includes a case identifier.
 - 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

determining whether the case identifier corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case, applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE.

- 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising, if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case, disregarding the configuration command.
 - 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix; and

- if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix, removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis.
- 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the predetermined prefix is a negative expression.

12. A method for use by a circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the method comprising:

comparing a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case, applying the configuration command to a corresponding CDE.

- 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising, if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case, disregarding the configuration command.
- 14. The method of claim 12 wherein the case identifier identifies an analysis mode of the circuit analysis tool.
- 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the analysis mode is a power analysis mode.
- 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the analysis mode is a signal analysis mode.

17. A method for use by a circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the method comprising:

determining whether a configuration command comprising configuration information to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix; and

if the configuration command includes the predetermined prefix, removing the corresponding CDE from the analysis.

18. A method for use by a circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the method comprising:

determining whether a configuration command to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix;

if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix, removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis;

if the configuration command does not include the predetermined prefix, determining whether a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case;

if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case, comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE;

if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, applying the configuration command thereto; and

if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, disregarding the configuration command.

- 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command.
- 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool.
- 21. The method of claim 19 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file.

- 22. The method of claim 19 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file.
- 23. The method of claim 22 wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs.
- 24. The method of claim 18 wherein the configuration command includes a case identifier.
- 25. The method of claim 24 further comprising, if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case, disregarding the configuration command.

26. A circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the tool comprising:

means for comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE;

means for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE; and

means for disregarding the configuration command if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE.

- 27. The tool of claim 26 wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command.
- 28. The tool of claim 27 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool.
- 29. The tool of claim 27 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file.
- 30. The tool of claim 27 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file.
- 31. The tool of claim 30 wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs.

32. The tool of claim 26 further comprising:

means for determining whether a case identifier of the configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

means for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case.

- 33. The tool of claim 32 further comprising means for disregarding the configuration command if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case.
 - 34. The tool of claim 26 further comprising:

means for determining whether the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix; and

means for removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix.

35. A circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the tool comprising:

means for comparing a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

means for applying the configuration command to a corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case.

36. The tool of claim 35 further comprising means for disregarding the configuration command if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case.

37. A circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the tool comprising:

means for determining whether a configuration command comprising configuration information to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix; and

means for removing the corresponding CDE from the analysis if the configuration command includes the predetermined prefix.

38. A circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the tool comprising:

means for determining whether a configuration command to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix;

means for removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix;

means for determining whether a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case if the configuration command does not include the predetermined prefix;

means for comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case;

means for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE; and

means for disregarding the configuration command if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE.

39. A computer-readable medium operable with a computer for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database of a circuit analysis tool, the medium having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE;

instructions executable by the computer for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE; and

instructions executable by the computer for disregarding the configuration command if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE.

- 40. The computer-readable medium of claim 39 wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command.
- 41. The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool.
- 42. The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file.

- 43. The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file.
- 44. The computer-readable medium of claim 43 wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs.
- 45. The computer-readable medium of claim 39 further having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for determining whether a case identifier of the configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

instructions executable by the computer for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case.

- 46. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 further having stored thereon instructions executable by the computer for disregarding the configuration command if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case.
- 47. The computer-readable medium of claim 39 further having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for determining whether the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix; and

instructions executable by the computer for removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix.

48. A computer-readable medium operable with a computer for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database of a circuit analysis tool, the medium having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for comparing a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

instructions executable by the computer for applying the configuration command to a corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case.

49. The computer-readable medium of claim 48 further having stored thereon instructions executable by the computer for disregarding the configuration command if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case.

50. A computer-readable medium operable with a computer for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database of a computer-readable medium analysis tool, the medium having stored thereon:

instructions for determining whether a configuration command comprising configuration information to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix; and

instructions executable by the computer for removing the corresponding CDE from the analysis if the configuration command includes the predetermined prefix.

51. A computer-readable medium operable with a computer for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database of a computer-readable medium analysis tool, the medium having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for determining whether a configuration command to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix;

instructions executable by the computer for removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix;

instructions executable by the computer for determining whether a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case if the configuration command does not include the predetermined prefix;

instructions executable by the computer for comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case;

instructions executable by the computer for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE; and

instructions executable by the computer for disregarding the configuration command if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE.